

THE REMINISCENCES OF CARL SCHURZ

more than a quarter of an hour, but it cost us two killed, one of them a captain, and ten wounded. The importance of our occupation of the hill consisted in its commanding one of the passes through that chain of ridges. Our troops had, therefore, to be put in proper position to sustain an attack, the immediate vicinity to be explored by scouts, pickets to be well thrown out on front and flanks, and a reserve to be properly placed—arrangements which require some time, especially in the dark and on densely wooded and uneven ground, not permitting anything to be discerned with certainty, even at a very short distance. While these things were being done, Lieutenant Oliver, who had left me soon after the fight, had ample time to report to his chief all that had happened, and General Hooker had ample time to send me further instructions if my doings were in any respect not in accordance with his wishes, or if he desired me to do anything beyond. But as I received no word from him I naturally believed that I had acted to General Hooker's entire satisfaction; and as the firing had ceased along the whole line, and everything seemed to be in the best of order, I hastened to report to General Hooker myself, and to look after my other two brigades held back by him.

I found General Hooker in the midst of my brigades, which stood there with grounded arms. Expecting a word of commendation in response to my salute, I was

beyond measure
astonished when in a harsh voice and in that
excited manner
tvhich I had observed in him an hour or two
before, he asked
me why I had not carried out his order to march
my division
to the relief of Geary. Mastering my feelings, I
quietly re-
plied that I had tried to do so; that*I had
marched off at the
head of my advance brigade; that I then had
received his posi-
tive order while en %@ut® to take aiad decupy a
certain hill with
cpie brigade; that jl! h^ brigades to
fol-

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